


Organized and Unorganized FARMERS

READ and SPREAD Your Paper

The

Farmers  Weekly

This weekly newspaper reports how farmers are drawing closer together to protect their homes and their living standards. All farmers who stand for unity in action should subscribe to the

FARMERS NATIONAL WEEKLY

-----USE THIS COUPON-----

Farmers National Weekly
1817 South Loomis Street
Chicago, Ill.

Please send me the Farmers National Weekly for

I enclose ☐ 1 year ☐ six months ☐ three months
☐ \$1.50 ☐ .90 ☐ .50

Name

Address

THE SONNENBURG TORTURE CAMP



JAC

BY
AN ESCAPED PRISONER
PRICE 5¢

STRIKE A BLOW Against Increasing Fascist Terror in Germany

German workers, professionals and middle class, poor farmers are voicing their opposition to the Hitler fascist regime in ever greater numbers. Hitler's Brown Shirts have increased their persecution, torture and terror.

The Nazi decree, establishing the "Volksgericht"—actually a lynch tribunal—aims to murder thousands of anti-fascists in concentration camps and prisons.

All-anti-fascists must unite in protest and opposition to the new wave of terror in Germany!

All anti-fascists must help save the lives of our brothers in Germany!

Raise your voices, mobilize masses of the population of the United States against increasing atrocities, against the "Volksgericht," for the liberation of all anti-fascist prisoners in Hitler's jails!

FREE ERNST THAELMANN

whose life is in immediate danger!

FREE LUDWIG RENN, Carl von Ossietzky, Ernst Torgler and hundreds of Pacifists, Socialists, Trade Unionists, Intellectuals, Communists, Jews and Christians now being tortured, soon to be tried by the Nazi courts!

Join the nation-wide movement against fascism

Write for the program of tasks. Remit funds to:
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO AID VICTIMS OF
GERMAN FASCISM

870 Broadway

New York, N. Y.

PUBLISHED JUNE, 1934, BY THE
WORKERS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF
870 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY
AND THE
INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE
80 EAST 11TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

FOREWORD

SONNENBURG is one of many concentration camps in Nazi Germany. We have heard something of Dachau, Sachsenberg, Fuhlsbuettel, Heuberg, Disslau, Recklinghausen, Neusenstrum, Osthofen, Neustadt, Buergermoor and other fascist hells.

Here we have an inside picture of Sonnenburg, a day-to-day record from the time it was opened as a concentration camp. We see a long procession of Communists, social-democrats, pacifists, Jews, Catholic and Protestant clergy, workers and professionals of various political beliefs other than Nazism, coming to Sonnenburg. Some are killed. A few are released. But the overwhelming number still suffer torture rivaling the medieval inquisitions. Here are the facts, written by an eye witness.

After reading this record of Sonnenburg, the messages from the prison where Ernst Thaelmann is held, from the camps where the writer Ludwig Renn and the pacifist von Ossietzky are incarcerated, become alarmingly clear. Ernst Thaelmann was so badly beaten with steel whips and tortured with other Nazi inventions in the dreaded Columbia House, that for days he could neither sit nor lie down. The life of this heroic leader of the German workers is in grave danger.

Freedom was won for Dimitroff, Taneff and Popoff. The Soviet Union offered these Bulgarians citizenship, forcing the Nazis to release them. World protest played a basic part in forcing their acquittal at the Reichstag fire trial. Torgler, also acquitted in the trial, is still in prison. The trial

of Ernst Thaelmann will open any day now. World protest can force the Nazis to cease their diabolic torture and release from concentration camps and prisons Thaelmann and thousands of anti-fascists!

In 22 countries, National Committees to Aid Victims of German Fascism have been organized. The World Committee headquarters are in Paris. Lord Marley, Deputy speaker of the British House of Lords, is its chairman and Professor Francis Jourdain is its treasurer.

A children's home has been established in Maison Laffitte, Paris, and a transfer station for children in Saarbrücken. At Maison Laffitte, the committee cares for the orphans of Hitler terror. Hundreds of Germans, hounded by the Nazis, cannot sleep twice under the same roof. The committee provides homes for as many of their children as funds permit.

In the United States, the National Committee to Aid Victims of German Fascism was organized on a broad united front basis, to further this work.

Two of the affiliated organizations are the International Labor Defense and the Workers' International Relief.

The International Labor Defense, American Section of the International Red Aid, famous as the "shield of the working class", has become a real force in building international working class solidarity in the fight against fascism and for the defense and enlargement of the democratic rights of the working class.

Its leadership in the defense struggles that arise out of the resistance of the masses of people to starvation, repression and exploitation is established.

Sacco and Vanzetti, Mooney, Scottsboro, Herndon, MacNamara—these are a few of the campaigns that stand out

in the history of the I.L.D., whose ninth anniversary comes on June 28, 1934.

The I.L.D. is an organization of class struggle for defense of the democratic rights of the working class, and against state terror; Jim Crowism; oppression, persecution and lynching of the Negro people, in defense of their national liberation struggles, and those of the colonies and semi-colonies of imperialism.

The Workers' International Relief was organized ten years ago around this three point program:

1. Solidarity and aid to the struggles of striking and unemployed workers.
2. To fight against misery and starvation of working class children.
3. To unite neighborhoods for neighborhood welfare.

The W.I.R. has helped in strikes from coast to coast, Passaic, Pittsburgh, Gastonia, Kentucky, Illinois, California, by mobilizing workers and their organizations to provide food for strikers and their families.

The Workers' International Relief unites neighborhoods by fighting economies projected by city administrations in sanitation, clinical services, housing. It unites workers' families for the welfare of the neighborhood, demanding free milk for babies, free lunches for school children, free medical attention for the sick, better sanitation and housing.

The W.I.R. stands for all forms of social insurance and especially for unemployment insurance.

To further the work of the National Committee to Aid Victims of German Fascism, of which both organizations are an active part, the I.L.D. and the W.I.R. are jointly printing this record of Sonnenburg.

The reader is urged to pass on this pamphlet after he has read it. Let the facts be known! Expose Hitler's hell-

holes! Join the United Front against fascism! All aid to the victims of German fascism!

Workers' International Relief
870 Broadway, New York City.
International Labor Defense
80 East 11th St., New York City.

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

THE world has seen many scandals, great public scandals, such as the Dreyfus affair, the murder of Jean Jaures, the legal murder of Sacco and Vanzetti, the Reichstag fire trial, all of which are the expression of certain epochs and of certain social and political conditions. But in the spring of 1933 there began a scandal whose savagery surpasses anything that the modern era has witnessed. We refer to the persecution of the helpless political prisoners of Germany, who are being tortured outrageously by the fascist German government in prisons, concentration camps, barracks and police stations. For months and months men and women have been subjected to mental and physical torture that may be compared to a slow vivisection.

Germany was once called the fatherland of poets, scientists and scholars. The country where Goethe, Schiller, Wagner and Beethoven lived and created, where scientific progress was admired and imitated by the scholars and scientists of the rest of the world, has become the country of whips and gallows, where an infernal physical and psychological terror reigns, where racial chauvinism is rampant, where Jews are persecuted and exiled, where every enemy of Hitler is menaced by death at the hands of the Nazis.

The greatest inventors and scientists, some recipients of the Nobel prize, are driven out. The statue of Heinrich Heine, the author of the most beautiful German folk-songs, is demolished because Heinrich Heine was a Jew.

The tombs of Ferdinand Lassalle and Kurt Eisner are razed by command of Hitler and Goebbels, who have even glorified the memory of the murderers of Walter Rathenau.

Mr. Goebbels, who once invited the world to an "Olym-

piad of the Mind", burns in huge bonfires the greatest masterpieces of German literary and scientific works. Nazi students collaborate with him in the destruction of everything not contained or containable within the barbaric program of the "Brown Cossacks".

Brigands, adventurers, dope-fiends, perverts of all kinds—these are the rulers of Germany of today. Men of the calibre of the Lieutenants Schultz and Heines, traitors of their own class and murderers of their own comrades, now have important governmental position as Chiefs of Police and as high State functionaries. It is no wonder that a Germany ruled by adventurers, incendiaries and chauvinistic militarists, has thrown into prisons and concentration camps more than 150,000 men and women who are against the fascist regime.

Our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood, have been driven like wild beasts into captivity. They have been herded into countless prisons because they struggled against war and fascism, because ideologically or racially they did not conform to the mold of the Nazis. Workers, doctors, lawyers, writers, Jews, pacifists, Communists, Socialists, even Protestant ministers and Catholic priests, anti-fascists of any tendency—all those who refuse to be standardized by the swastika—are the victims of the Nazis.

Veraigner wrote a book, *Memoirs of a Revolutionist*, in which she describes the diabolic tortures practiced in prisons of the old Tsarist regime. But these tortures were nothing compared to the invention of the Third Reich of Adolf Hitler. If in my account of the tortures of the Sonnenburg prison, I mention but few of the names of my comrades, it is because I dread the cruelties that the inmates would undergo as a consequence of my revelations.

THE SONNENBURG TORTURE CAMP

The Plague at Sonnenburg

I WAS one of the hundreds of thousands of prisoners in captivity under the rule of Hitler. For seven months I wore a prisoner's uniform in the concentration camp of Sonnenburg (Neumark). Here, behind thick double walls, about one thousand political prisoners are incarcerated. It was by a lucky chance that I succeeded in escaping from this place, which in Germany has earned the gruesome title of the "torture-hell of Sonnenburg".

I swear upon my conscience that my descriptions are true to the last detail, that nothing is exaggerated. The memories I have carried away from there could not be enhanced even by the wildest flights of the imagination. It is a torture for me now to think what my brothers and comrades are enduring. But when I left them, I solemnly promised that the whole world would hear their cry of agony.

Sonnenburg was once a penitentiary exclusively reserved for murderers sentenced to death or for life terms. In the last decade, during which the penitentiary was in active service, the total of deaths and suicides there numbered 560. Their graves, nearby, are silent witnesses to this great human tragedy. In 1930, the penitentiary was closed because of the frightful sanitary conditions. The official report at the time stated that the poisonous drinking water and the damp walls were a latent cause of epidemics of dysentery and influenza.

The government of Hitler chose this building as a prison

for political prisoners: Communists, Socialists, pacifists, Jews. The water of Sonnenburg is still undrinkable—its use is even *forbidden*. Imagine this alone, in a camp where a thousand men are kept locked for weeks, for months, for years.

Arrival at Sonnenburg

In the month of April, 1933, the first group of prisoners, I among them, was transported to the camp of Sonnenburg under the vigilance of police and Nazi shock troops. For hours and hours we remained standing in open cars. From the very beginning we were subjected to a whole series of brutal abuses.

After us, were to arrive one by one from the prisons of Berlin, Spandau, Lehrter Strasse, Alexanderplatz, Ploetzensee, and from all over Germany, trucks and trains filled with prisoners. The itinerary is Schlesischer, Bahnhof and then Sonnenburg.

Upon leaving the "Gruene Minna" (popular term for police wagon), each one is put in chains and kept under guard. And so we cross the station to the cars, leaving behind wives who watch us mutely, eyes blinded with tears. Two by two, in our small compartments, we cross the outskirts of Berlin on our way to Sonnenburg, where men grow quickly grey, where limbs are crushed, nerves shattered, and often life snuffed out.

Our arrival at the concentration camp is greeted first by the warden, a Nazi of the most savage variety. Rifles and pistols, triggers cocked, are pointed at us. And immediately we hear:

"You Communist pigs! Keep your filthy heads up."

"Hey, there, stand at attention, you blockhead."

Then comes the order to sing the National Anthem.

There are many who do not know it. The Nazis beat the prisoners with the butts of their guns and strike them across the face with fists. Those who do not march in step are kicked in the shins with heavy hob-nailed boots. The inhabitants watch from behind their windows as we go through the village, and shake their heads in silent rage. Everywhere we meet gloomy faces, seldom do we see a smile.

So, assailed on every side by oaths, kicks, and blows, we arrive at the prison courtyard. Our pockets are searched. We are told to write home that we are very well treated; if we don't, we are warned, the consequences will be on our heads.

The police lieutenant, warden of Sonnenburg, and his aide, Bruening, state that the prisoners have absolutely no reason to complain, and that "*at the slightest infraction of camp discipline, all the bloody accounts that are being spread abroad concerning the treatment of the inmates will be carried out to the letter,*" and that if anyone "*attempts to escape, he will be shot down without warning.*"

Those of us who arrived at the beginning of April were forced to sleep on the bare ground. When straw was given to us later on, we ran a veritable gauntlet down the stairs and through the courtyard to carry it to the sleeping quarters. Nazis stood a yard apart and struck the prisoners with chairs, iron bars and clubs. Many of the prisoners were so seriously wounded, that they were immediately taken to the hospital ward. This torture is one of the most indelible memories of Sonnenburg. The Nazis call this, "The First Straw Waltz".

During the period of the celebration of Hitler's birthday, later in April, we were driven out of our beds, or rather heaps of straw, at five o'clock in the morning and, at eleven o'clock at night, were required to stand at attention in front

of the beds, dressed only in our shirts. A Nazi, himself scarcely able to read, climbed up on a chair to teach the prisoners to sing the National Anthem. Shivering with cold, we sang and sang until we could no longer stand up. All this because we expected the visit of an inspector and it was desired that he find us in a jolly, singing mood, celebrating the birthday of our Chancellor, Adolf Hitler.

During this "celebration" police and guards carefully watched the prisoners to see whether any smiled or grimaced at the mention of Chancellor Hitler, or at the cries of "Hitler will give us work and bread".

As a little change of routine, it was announced at night that, "Tomorrow morning at four o'clock the whole camp will take reducing exercises."

After a sleepless night we were forced to leave our cells at the break of dawn to begin the most horrible of the tortures at the concentration camp of Sonnenburg: the combination of military and physical culture exercises: *Down Up, Down Up! Forward March* . . . this for hours and hours.

Drill Until You Faint

This type of exercise is specially prepared and organized to demoralize the prisoners and drain every bit of their energy. The first transport was drilled until many of the men fainted. But, "*On Your Mark, Forward March*," went on and on.

This always lasted until most of the prisoners were on the ground, their hands and arms bleeding, their bodies racked with pain. At first the prisoners exercised in civilian dress; later they were given lightweight convict suits.

Every prisoner is looked upon as a soldier of the lowest rank and is obliged to salute every Nazi he meets, regardless of his position. The *Up Down* exercises are practiced

in addition, at all military functions. When it is over, the prisoner staggers back to his cell or is carried to the hospital. The first transports practiced the correct manner of leaving their cells for days at a time. For hours and hours the prisoners sat beside their doors waiting for the whistle or order to leave their cells and stand at attention.

Until September the prisoners washed naked at the pump in the courtyard. Serious illnesses resulted from exposure.

Prisoners Prepare Their Own Graves

It would be impossible to relate all the atrocities endured from April on, by prominent Communists, lawyers of liberal tendencies, and pacifists. Schneller, Kasper, Obuch, and Erich Muehsam, former Communist members of Parliament, and the lawyer Litten, were beaten for hours in their cells until their bodies were covered with blood. Schneller was forced to count each blow he received. Obuch was so badly wounded, that he is now unable to walk. But it was Willi Kasper who received by far the worst treatment, since the Nazis seemed determined to torture him to death.

A Jewish shop-keeper, Rudi Bernstein had to be sent to the state hospital in Berlin as a result of the blows he received. Karl von Ossietzki, the author and editor of *Weltbühne*, though already in a very bad physical condition when he arrived at Sonnenburg, was as badly treated as the others. The writer, Erich Muehsam, had all the hairs of his head and beard plucked out. When he was brought back to his cell, none of us recognized him. Warden Paesler was in charge at this time.

In April, Litten, Willi Kasper, Ernst Schneller and Erich Muehsam were set to digging their own graves near the wall of the prison court. The other prisoners were taken out

into the yard to watch their comrades being beaten and generally mistreated. Only the last minute intervention of an officer who arrived from Berlin, where a frenzy of indignation had been aroused by what was going on, saved the prisoners from the firing-squad. One of the policemen took a snap-shot of them while they were digging their graves. Unfortunately this was confiscated so as "not to give foreigners a new pretext for protesting".

One can find all classes of men of the most divergent political opinions at Sonnenburg. We have already given the names of Karl von Ossietzki, the former publisher of the *Weltbuehne*, and of politically prominent Communists. And side by side with the Communists we find former militants of the Social-Democratic Party. To these we add the names of the Doctors Benjamin and Erwin Mueller, and in the course of my report, we will speak of many others.

A characteristic example of the cruelty of the Nazis is the custom of taking a prisoner into a so-called "information bureau", where he is asked, "Are you still a Communist?" If he answers "Yes", he is beaten black and blue.

If the prisoner answers "No", his situation is by no means bettered. "What, you coward, haven't you the courage to admit you are a Communist?"

Tragedies

The prisoners at Sonnenburg, like all the others in concentration camps throughout Germany, are put under arrest and kept imprisoned without trial, legal investigation, or sentence. Very often fathers of four, five or eight children are brutally torn away from their families, their only crime being that they dared to express disapproval of the fascist regime.

One of the prisoners, a cook, the father of five children,

had been denounced and immediately arrested. Soon afterwards his wife received the same treatment. The five children roamed the streets for days and days, until some neighbors took them in. Now they have been put into an orphanage, the address of which the father has never been able to learn.

Another man, a miner from the Ruhr district, Hans H., received word from the hospital sisters and from his wife that his baby was dying. He asked for a leave of absence in order to see the child before its death. It was refused.

A young worker, father of five children, got news that his wife, who was suffering from a nervous breakdown, was about to give birth to another baby. The woman was so tormented by the imprisonment of her husband that she had decided to go to Sonnenburg to see him. The husband, afraid that the journey might be fatal to his wife in her condition, asked for a leave. This was refused him.

Fritz, one of the prisoners from the district of Lauterbach, received a telegram from his mother announcing the death of his father. With the telegram in his hand he went to Bruening to ask him for a leave. But Bruening only smiled and answered: "What? A leave of absence for a mere nothing like that? Of course not. . . ."

But the most awful sights of Sonnenburg are to be seen in the hospital wards. Here we saw men who were deaf mutes others half blind. One of them was unable to walk and had to be carried to the toilets. Another, a war veteran, was stretched out on his back with a curvature of the spine. Another, a barber, was sent to Berlin in August because of his diseased eyes. "Souvenirs" from the Nazis.

In the north wing, on the second floor, there is a prisoner, a certain Schultz, who lost one arm and one leg in the World War. Wounds on the crown of his head inflicted by

the Nazis, compel him to wear thick bandages on his skull all the time. He was put on the second floor, to make it necessary for him to climb up and down the stairs.

A man from Weisbaden who was treated for many months for a catarrh of the vocal chords, had in reality an active case of consumption. In spite of this, he shared a small room with five other men who were thus constantly exposed to contagion. In the end he was transported to the state hospital in Berlin, but his condition is so bad that he is not expected to live another year.

A certain Zobel, a former athletic director, has an open wound in his stomach due to an unsuccessful "operation".

None of these men can leave Sonnenburg. They are taken out only to die.

Torture Chambers

Sonnenburg has a well-organized system of torture for the newcomers. The underground floor of the east and west wings of the prison have been divided into cells called "torture-chambers". Each prisoner must spend from two to three weeks in this hell before he has a right to an ordinary cell or dormitory bed. Every day, five, ten, twenty or thirty prisoners are taken into these chambers.

I personally have undergone only a part of the horrors described here. But it still makes my blood run cold to think of the scores that I have witnessed, month after month.

Healthy young men are brought in. Immediately they are dragged into the courtyard where they are kicked and beaten until they fall from exhaustion. Then to the torture-chambers, where their faces and bodies are beaten with clubs, with the butts of guns and with fists until they stream with blood. Usually they are locked up alone and compelled to

lie on the bare ground; sometimes the "charitable" Nazis throw them a bit of straw.

When the prisoner has recovered from his wounds sufficiently to be able to walk he is given a uniform. The same young men who but a short time before had come to Sonnenburg, bright and healthy, are unrecognizable, their faces bruised and bleeding, eyes blood-shot, their hair partially pulled out, or heads bleeding or completely shaved.

The next evening the military drill begins. The prisoners are required to salute and execute marching formations until they are completely worn out. They are then compelled to run interminable foot-races. The warden calls out, "Up and down. . . ." The prisoners fall like flies. The courtyard is covered with blood. In agony they plead for help, invoking in the night their fathers, mothers and wives.

The first one to fall to the ground is immediately commanded by the warden to, "Get up, you dirty swine, you're only pretending. . . ." They kick him with their hob-nailed boots. If this brings no result, some of the other prisoners are obliged to drag the limp body to the water-pump. They hold his nose closed under the pump and douse him until he regains consciousness and begins to cough.

And the order is repeated: "Forward run, . . . up—down, . . . up—down. . . ." But this lasts for only a few minutes. The wounded man, bleeding copiously from his legs and head, again sinks to the ground. And again—and still again, the process is repeated, until the sadistic lust of the inquisitioners is satisfied. When at length, late in the night, the prisoners are ordered back to their cells, they are in such a state of exhaustion and terror that many commit suicide.

The most notorious of the inquisitioners of Sonnenburg during the months of August, September and October was

the Nazi Adrian, who had formerly been leader of a shock troop in the concentration camp of Hammerstein from which he had been removed because of the assassination of several political prisoners. He had been deprived of his special uniform, but he remained the same sadist, and with his own hands inflicted the cruelest punishments upon the prisoners who were under his supervision. He often said that he was unable to sleep in peace, "Unless he knocked down at least a half dozen Communists every day".

I will cite here only a few of the methods the Nazi Cossacks used to torture their victims. The prisoners are ordered to crouch on their knees until their legs are numb and nerveless. Then they are commanded to hop into position, with the result that they invariably smash their faces against the cobble-stones of the courtyard. Often while the men were in this position Adrian and his fellow-inquisitioners pricked their buttocks and sexual organs with pins.

Often the "forward march . . . up—down" excise was practiced until a half dozen bleeding, sweating bodies lay on the ground. Since the prisoners were accused of "pretending" they were left there for twenty or thirty minutes. Then the others who were still conscious got on their hands and knees to carry the unconscious men on their backs. This was organized into a sort of race, and the one who reached the far wall with the prisoner on his back first was excused from further practice for the day.

Three Jews Driven to Suicide

In September the Nazis triumphantly dragged in a Jewish merchant and his two sons. The father was about fifty and the sons twenty and thirty years old. Like wild-fire the news spread among the Nazis. Even we heard: "Three dirty Jews are here now. We'll take care of them. . . ."

The pretext for the arrest of the three men was that they paid their workmen below the standard wages and that they had not paid their social insurance for four weeks.

In fear and trembling they were taken to the "reception hall" where several prisoners heard the Nazis tell them that "there were some pretty things in store for them." These same prisoners can bear witness to the fact that the three Jews appeared to be in good health and that they had no bones broken when they entered.

Not long afterwards we heard pitiful, blood-curdling screams from the cellar, where Adrian and other Nazis were beating the Jews with clubs and irons. The doors were carefully closed; nevertheless, the screams filled the whole east wing, the east court, the hospital and even a part of the north wing of the prison. When they were ready to be taken out and dressed in their uniforms, the father was so badly wounded that his clothes had to be brought to him. As for the sons, their heads were so swollen and faces so disfigured that the others could not recognize them.

One of the sons asked permission to sit down. The answer was, "What, you want to sit down, you dirty pig of a Jew?" At the same time he was struck a blow on the head with a club. He staggered and fell to the ground, and in the end was dragged to his cell. His brother received the same treatment.

The same evening we assisted at a particular gruesome spectacle. At eight o'clock the Jews were taken out into the east court with the other new prisoners and were driven around and around to the tune of "Forward march, . . . up—down" . . . and "You Jewish sons of bitches." Of course, the men fainted, were dragged to the water-pump, regained consciousness to the triumphant call of Adrian:

"You see, these rascally Jews are quite all right again." And so the torture continued, repeated countless times.

In the meantime a new procedure had been introduced by the Nazis. The few criminals and degraded prisoners were obliged to beat the Jews. If they refused, they received the same treatment as was inflicted upon the Jews. And we are proud to state here that it was only the *non-political* elements who would consent to do this. The Communists were often ordered to strike their own comrades. They refused, and were thrown into the cellar of the east and west wings.

After the torture of the Jews, that same night, a scene occurred, the brutality and obscenity of which is almost unbelievable. When all the lights of the east wing had been put out, several Nazis went to the cell of the youngest of the Jewish prisoners. I hesitate to describe the atrocities perpetrated by these perverts upon this defenseless man. They covered his wounded head with a cloth and then these heroes of the German nation, these pioneers of the Third Reich outraged this young Jew.

The same night, the three Jewish prisoners, the father and two sons attempted to commit suicide, one by opening his veins and the other two by hanging. They were saved, however, at the last minute.

The next day the story was common gossip among the prisoners and even among the inhabitants of the village. Certain groups of Nazis who tried to stop the abuses of their vicious fellow-Nazis at Sonnenburg did their best to have this news published.

Because of the undesired publicity, the warden was obliged to give some medical help to the three dying Jews. The youngest of the three was given a urine-test, and when the doctor held up the glass a prisoner heard him remark

cynically: "At least 30 per cent blood in the urine." The Nazis accomplished their purpose: the man's kidneys were ruined and he became an invalid for the rest of his life.

Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and the Ministry of the Interior Know These Things

The day after the brutal incident with the Jews, the director of the camp took the train for Berlin. He is a certain Reschke or Reuschke. The purpose of his trip was to visit the home office in order to settle certain technical questions of jurisdiction in the camp. The same day it was learned that not long before a radio station at Moscow had broadcast a detailed account of the tortures of the Sonnenburg prisoners. This had naturally made a most disagreeable impression and the director was invited to confront the "calumnies" of Moscow with "the true facts". These facts we learned from Nazis who became sympathetic towards us.

In the meantime, the mistreatment of the Jews had brought about such a wave of public indignation among the inhabitants of the village and even among some of the Nazis that it was now impossible to represent the facts as mere inventions of Moscow. Therefore when the director got news of the torture of the two Jews and the outrage committed upon the youngest, he immediately went with his private detectives to the east wing and the cellar, so that they could later hush up the rumors concerning the affair. When he tried to enter the cells of the Jewish prisoners the guard refused to let him in, saying that he had the strictest orders from the warden and from Bruening that no one, not even the director, was to visit these cells. All this was open talk in the camp.

This naturally brought about a struggle between the two men for authority in Sonnenburg. Reschke again went to

Berlin and made a detailed report to the Home Office of what was going on in the east wing, including the treatment of the young Jew. With the thought that his power at Sonnenburg would be thereby augmented, he made the same report to Minister Diehls, a personal friend of Goering. He stressed the fact that a general petition had arrived from the citizens of Sonnenburg, protesting against the screams emanating from the camp and the treatment of respectable young girls by the Nazis, who were accustomed to beat them on the street with dog straps. This information was the ace in the hand of Reschke with which he hoped to secure authority in Sonnenburg.

We know from certain Nazi sources, that due to the alarming reports spread abroad, Hitler, Goering and Goebbels, were fully informed of the occurrences in the camp.

Conditions at the camp did not, however, improve for the prisoners. On the contrary, their treatment became more and more severe. Bruening retained all his authority, and the prisoners were told that if they divulged the slightest information concerning the camp they would be severely punished. There was the strictest possible supervision, especially for the prisoners who did work outside, such as cleaning, farming, shopping, in order to avoid the possibility of uncensored letters passing through the mail.

Following the Jewish incident, the supervisor of the hospital proposed to the warden that every prisoner who in the future attempted to commit suicide be punished with fourteen days "hard arrest." Bruening accepted this proposition.

Bruening himself went to Berlin this time to confer with Daluge, a well-known Nazi and now chief of police. Following this visit, he intensified the torture of the prisoners at Sonnenburg. In a conference with his staff Bruening

explained to Hammel, Hohner and his aide Knochel that they were to act more prudently in the future and that nothing that took place at Sonnenburg was to be made public. After this, Hammel, a repulsive individual, with a face of a degenerate or an executioner, increased the length and the violence of the tortures. He took a particular pleasure in being present at the tortures, often beating the prisoners of the west wing himself until they fainted.

The "new line of action" at Sonnenburg was put into practice by the transfer of the control of prisoners to the superintendent of the hospital. More than ever before these prisoners who asked to be admitted into the hospital were given the "forward march, . . . up—down . . ." treatment. Many of these men had tuberculosis, kidney trouble, or had been wounded in the war.

One young prisoner was first beaten until his head and shoulders were completely swollen. Then they pulled out the hair on both sides of his head, leaving only a small tuft in the middle. Around this they tied a red hair-ribbon. Thus attired he was forced to hop about until he fainted from exhaustion, while the Nazis roared with delight.

The "new line of action" was further carried out by a close inspection of the ill and aged prisoners who had been exempted from military service. Dozens of these were obliged to participate in military drill with the others. A well-known physician, Dr. Erwin Muller, had helped some of the sick prisoners to escape from the drills. This reached the ears of Bruening. Not long afterwards, this young man was frightfully persecuted because he had dared to show signs of mercy.

A few days before we had seen this merciful doctor, calm, cheerful, in good health, administering to the needs of the other prisoners; then we saw him being taken from the

cellar to the court to do his "training". His face was pale as wax; one of his cheeks hung from the bone like a lump of bleeding meat; his throat was covered with red and blue welts. After the usual race around the courtyard in the crouching position, the Nazis ordered him to put his thumbs under his armpits and to sing, "Poor little Hans must go into the wide, wide world alone". Hundreds of the other prisoners watched, their faces crimson with impotent fury.

Clergymen and Teachers

Among the prisoners was a clergyman from the neighborhood of Sonnenburg. This man had an excellent reputation in the Protestant Church and was a zealous organizer of missions in South Africa. But he had refused to adhere to the "German Christians", the new religious movement created by the Nazis. The Oppositionists, that is, the followers of this clergyman, were greatly persecuted during the elections. In spite of this, they elected fourteen representatives (60,000 votes), while the Nazis elected only eight. As a direct result the clergyman was imprisoned at Sonnenburg. The Nazis were delighted to get their hands on him. "We'll take care of him," they said. They had him carry their night-pots to the garbage-wagons and shook with laughter at the spectacle.

He often witnessed the tortures of the other prisoners. On one occasion, he said that it would be terrible if the seeds planted by the Nazis "would blossom and rise from the earth to punish those who are guilty of all these atrocities." The Nazis considered him dangerous and isolated him by putting him in another wing.

A teacher from the neighborhood of Sonnenburg, who had no interest at all in politics, was also kept in captivity for many months. He was ill, suffered from gout. Of what

crime was he guilty? He wrote a letter to the local government demanding action against a Nazi clergyman who, he charged, had raped several young girls behind the pulpit of the village church in the municipality where the teacher lived. He was taken to Sonnenburg. The Nazi clergyman, on the other hand, retained all his honors and duties until October and was able to prevent the release of the teacher.

One evening, the proprietor of the dance hall at Sonnenburg, invited the warden and all the Nazis of the camp to come to his establishment and drink at his expense. He drank a little too much himself and sitting behind the bar calmly announced that after all, Adolf Hitler "was an idiot". He was immediately arrested and taken to the concentration camp.

The same evening a waiter from the restaurant of "Waldfrieden" (situated near the water at Sonnenburg), and another, a national socialist were also arrested. The waiter was arrested because of an incident with some of the Nazis who had refused to pay for their drinks. He lost his temper and said, "We ought to wipe out this brown plague". All three of these men were beaten unmercifully. Upon their release they were told that they knew what would happen if they divulged what they had seen or what they had experienced themselves. One can imagine that they said nothing, but strange as it may seem, their experiences were soon common talk in the whole village.

Sick Man Beaten and Hanged

In September, 200 political prisoners were transferred from the concentration camp of Oranienburg to that of Sonnenburg, a tragic cargo composed mostly of old, broken men, many of them very sick.

Those who used crutches were obliged to run through a

veritable gauntlet of Nazis who hurried them with slaps and blows. As they fell to the ground, fainting, they heard, "Hey, there, get going. Forward march. . . ."

The prisoners from Oranienburg were lodged in the east wing. It was already September, and very cold. But there were not nearly enough blankets for those already there. Naturally those who arrived had none at all.

The newcomers, in spite of their various physical infirmities such as crippled legs and varicose veins, were not at all exempt from the regular routine. They too had to practice the marching formations, the exercises, the Nazi songs. They were not given uniforms immediately but drilled in their own clothes in the dirt and filth of the courtyard.

The prisoners were, moreover, dirty, infected and diseased because of the conditions under which they had lived at Oranienburg. This camp is infested with vermin, is supplied with but few toilets for the hundreds of men imprisoned there. The prisoners had to sleep on damp, rotten straw. It was the barracks of men whose wretched condition was the excuse for the most outrageous and the most shameful display of Nazi sadism.

All those who had lice were obliged to stand completely naked near the wall of the east wing. One of them was forced to pull out all the hair around his sexual organs. All of them stood for more than an hour in the cold, shivering and chilled to the bone.

There was one syphilitic who had been taken out of a home for the aged because he had said that the condition of the poor had not improved under the reign of Hitler. He was destined to become the butt of much of the savage wit of the Nazis. They pushed him under the water-pump. One of the lowest, most criminal types of the other prisoners had to scrub his organs with a soap brush until the blood ran.

Not satisfied with this, they dressed him in a thin shirt that only reached to his navel. He stood this way for three hours in the biting cold, while the Nazis shook with laughter. During the whole time, groups of these barbarians walked by to look at this frightful spectacle, exchanging obscene stories and pleasantries.

Even this was not enough. The same evening several Nazis went to his cell and performed the most unspeakable acts of indecency on him. Then they beat him until he gasped his last breath. To make it look like a suicide, they hung him up, and put his hand against his organs. The next day they told the prisoners and the other Nazis, giggling and laughing at their humor, that the "suicide" had masturbated until the last moment.

Some of the prisoners who were carpenters, made a black coffin, and six of them were obliged to carry it through the village to the cemetery in their prison uniforms. After them, walked the warden of the camp dressed in an evening suit and a top hat—a mute demonstration of the Third Reich that disgusted even the inhabitants of Sonnenburg.

Social-Democratic Worker Driven to Death

August 10, 1933, a group of social-democratic workers were brought to the camp. The same evening we heard the screams of our martyred comrades. The chief bully at this time was a certain Max Muller, from Frankfurt, Oder, Luckenwalderstrasse. One of the most harassed of the prisoners was a social-democratic civil-servant, about forty years old. Even the Nazis revolted at the treatment that he received at the hands of Muller, and they asked the latter to be more moderate and to strike him less brutally.

His story is short. The day after his arrival he was found hanging in his cell.

That same day, when Muller went into the Nazi dining-room, some of his companions called out to him, "You know what you have on your conscience. . . ." They sang in a chorus, "Maxie, you know how to beat 'em up, beat 'em up, beat 'em up. . . ." But Muller was doing his "duty". His group had been accused of lack of severity with the prisoners, and he took no chance of losing his position.

When the Black Guards arrived at Sonnenburg, the obscenities and homosexual practices became more and more common. The younger and handsomer prisoners were often forced to masturbate in the presence of the Nazis and to show them their sexual organs. The majority of the Nazis behaved shamefully; their mouths reeked with filthy jokes.

The worst types of criminals were appointed guards in the concentration camp.

We know from reliable sources that many of the prison guards had formerly been prisoners themselves at Sonnenburg. They were burglars, house-breakers, and so on. And these men were specially detailed by *Goering* to guard the anti-fascist prisoners.

The guards who came to the camp in April, 1933, were hated by the inhabitants and the peasants around Sonnenburg. The police of the village and other local officials were constantly in conflict with those who were sent from Berlin by Chief of Police *Wecke*. The young peasant women and girls were the special prey of the guards.

One night one of the guards fired his gun while drunk. The bullet made a hole in the ceiling and grazed one of the political prisoners on the second floor. Another time he took two of the prisoners into the courtyard to exercise them and threatened to kill them. The men were saved only by the intervention of one of the other Nazis who happened to pass by. They brought him to the guard-house where he

explained that he was immune under all circumstances, under article 51 (a law for insanity).

When the Nazis received their wages they ran completely wild. They went into the dormitories and dirtied the floors, the beds, and the tables. Naturally, the prisoners had to clean all this up. One day Siegmund, a police lieutenant who acted as warden until July 31, himself said, "These Nazis are a band of adventurers and brigands. The Communists, at least, are convinced in their beliefs".

This expression, "brigands and adventurers", could be best applied to the guards of the spring of 1933. They stole all the prisoners' money. Many of the latter wondered why the letters that they wrote during that spring and summer never reached their friends and families until they found a heap of these letters in a bucket in the kitchen, with the stamps removed.

There was a strict censorship of all letters. One of the prisoners had written home that "the weather is bad". The letter was not allowed to be mailed under the pretence that this was a criticism of the government of Hitler. Adrian beat the author of the "criticism" until he fainted.

Communist Shot "in Attempt to Escape"

Late one summer night, a group of Nazis entered the cell of a young prisoner from the neighborhood of Sonnenburg. We heard him screaming, "No, no, I won't go with you. . . . You want to shoot me. . . ."

They dragged him out of the cell and disappeared with him into the night. We were all at our windows listening. At first we heard the voices of the guards. Then nothing. Half an hour later those of us who had our windows open heard the sound of dull shots coming from the direction of the forest. After this, complete silence.

For two days we had no news of the young prisoner. Then the following appeared in *Der Angriff* and in the *Voelkische Beobachter*: "Shock troops discover crime committed by Communists. . . . One Communist shot while attempting to escape. . . ."

The prisoner from Sonnenburg, we learned a few days later, had been left for dead in the rushes of a newly-built canal. But some time afterwards he had staggered into the municipal hospital of Sonnenburg, bleeding from two bullet wounds. When the Nazis learned of this, they promised that they would "take care of him."

The article also stated that at the same time another prisoner from Meseritz (Neumarck) was accused of having murdered a young Nazi. He was said to have confessed. Later it was reported that he had been shot down in the forest of Limmeritz "while attempting to escape."

A few weeks before these incidents occurred the press of Frankfurt on the Oder and Fuerstenwalde published the news of the arrest of three active Communists. The warden at Sonnenburg rubbed his hands in glee and said, "Well, well, if only they would come here. . . ." Not long afterwards the news appeared in the whole German press that "three Communists had been shot down while attempting to escape from the transport taking them to Sonnenburg."

In a Cellar on Bread and Water

I have mentioned only some of the things that our comrades underwent in the concentration camp of Sonnenburg. But in spite of this, there were few, very few, who weakened before the Nazi terror and betrayed their comrades. Among those who did betray associates was a former social-democratic police official, Boettcher. Although a prisoner himself, he informed on dozens of Communists and social-demo-

crats in the camp. One of the prisoners said that Goebbels was a poor orator; another, that Hitler would not remain in power very long; another, that the food in the camp was poisonous. This spy, Boettcher exposed all three. As a result they were moved to the cells in the cellar.

Absolute darkness reigns in these cells. The windows are covered with sackings. The food consists solely of bread, water and coffee, with warm bouillon every three days. There are no chairs, no tables, and the bed stands upright against the wall all day.

The prisoner is forbidden to sit on the floor except when he receives his "meals". The walls are moist, dank and covered with slimy growths. The prisoners suffer constantly from colds, rheumatism and other illnesses.

One of the favorite pastimes of the Nazis is to tell one of the prisoners that he is condemned to death and that he is to be executed in an hour. They affect an air of kindness and humanity and tell him to write his will and farewell letters. Certain that he is about to die, the prisoner writes to his wife, children and parents and gives the letters to the Nazis. Then the ceremony begins. He is put on his knees in front of his bed, and he watches the bullets being put into the gun. His eyes are covered with a cloth. Then the Nazis walk out of the cell on tip-toes and bang the door. The poor man generally faints, wounding his head. The Nazis are convulsed with laughter and tell their comrades, "Here is one that we shot with the door of his cell. . . ."

Thirty-nine Prisoners Faint from Exhaustion in One Day

In July, when the Police Lieutenant Siegmund and his men learned that they had to leave Sonnenburg because of their imputed lack of efficiency, the only means left to them to show that they had a well-organized system was to organ-

ize a general provocation. Siegmund particularly desired a mutiny and the guards were given orders that in the event this mutiny took place, they were to shoot without hesitation.

It is not strange, therefore, that there was found on the door of one of the cells the following "written by the Communists": "In Leuna the Nazis are in mutiny. . . . In October we will have Communism. . . ." Immediately all the prisoners in the dormitory were questioned. They were driven into the courtyard or into the torture chambers and were told that the tortures would not cease until the "guilty" were discovered.

This was the third of July, and the Nazis planned to end the day with provocation and wholesale execution of prisoners. For many hours prisoners were carried to the hospital in a steady stream. Towards evening the situation reached its climax. Those who lived in the east wing and most of those who lived in the west wing were lined up near the hospital. The prisoners of the west wing were lined up in the north end of the court. They were put through the "up-down . . . , forward march . . ." drills about a hundred times until, breathless, they fell to the ground.

In the meantime the prisoners of the east wing had to sing songs, accompanied by a small band of music. Every few minutes the Nazis passed before them with the body of a horribly mutilated prisoner. The minutes passed, and with them the prisoners. The band played, drowning out the screams of the tortured victims. Hundreds of men stood against the prison-wall like stones. Hundreds of men clenched their fists in helpless fury.

The guards shouted, "Sing, will you, you swine . . ." But they could not sing. The tears rolled down their cheeks.

Everything was ready for the provocation. A Nazi stood in the dormitory with his gun cocked. The prisoners,

strained to the breaking point, imagined that their last moment had come. Sixteen wounded prisoners were carried before them to incite rebellion. Suddenly, hundreds of voices broke into song. "Once I had a Comrade" rang through the courtyard. The prisoners of the west court joined in this song of solidarity and comradeship of the anti-fascists.

One of the guards, Bauer, ran into the east court and yelled, "You sons of bitches . . . have you gone crazy? . . . stop it . . . stop it at once . . ." The song continued for four minutes more, and then ceased. All the prisoners, with the exception of those who were too ill to stand up, were ordered into position for drill.

Willi Kasper, a former member of Parliament, who had a bad heart and a disease of the nerves, was compelled to "take charge" of the prisoners of the east wing. For forty minutes they raced around the yard, while the Nazis watched eagerly for the slightest sign of revolt and handled their guns nervously.

But luck was against them. The prisoners showed an incomparable discipline. They were possessed by but a single thought: "Not one of us must fall into the trap of these provocateurs."

That evening the hospital was filled to overflowing. One of the guards there who still retained a bit of human feeling made no secret of his indignation, and even sent a letter to the Home Office in which he accused the warden of the camp, saying, among other things, that "there were more injections used in that one day than would ordinarily be used in a year."

It was not long after that some of the Nazis told the prisoners confidentially that the inscription upon the door of the dormitory was the work of one of the Nazis.

When the Black Guards came to Sonnenburg, there was

"discovered" upon the same door another revolutionary inscription. This time, however, it was written on the outside of the door. The series of tortures, marching and racing began again. And again the Nazis told the prisoners confidentially that this also was the work of a Nazi who had been stupid enough to write it on the *outside* of the door.

In September the third provocation took place. This time it was charged that political discussions were held near the water-pump. One of the political prisoners was said to have told his comrades: "It won't be very long before *we* will make the Nazis march around this same courtyard."

One of the national-socialist prisoners, a young doctor called Jung Marchand, who wanted to win the favor of the Nazis by denouncing the others, said that he himself had overheard political discussions near the pump. A half dozen prisoners were thrown into the torture chambers to be "questioned". But not one betrayed his comrades.

Enraged at this third failure, Bruening proceeded with a furious "forward march" treatment. Willi Kasper had a heart attack and had to be taken to the hospital on a stretcher. Many of the prisoners developed serious heart, nerve, and lung diseases as a result of this day's "training". Von Ossietzki and Dr. Auslander, both very ill, were forced to carry on.

Save Willi Kasper

We can never forget how strong and healthy Willi Kasper was when he arrived at Sonnenburg. The very first day he was beaten in his cell and in the courtyard until he bled. When his wife, Toni, came to see him, she was struck dumb with horror at the changed, mutilated face of her husband. His face pale as wax, hair torn out, head covered with wounds, he stood by the wall of the prison and could not say a word.

He was a special butt of the Nazis. They compelled him to take over command of the other prisoners and to lead them in their exercises. They jeered at him whenever they saw him. He was held responsible for every political discussion that was "discovered". He was not left in peace for a single day, for a single hour. They made him race through the yard and the buildings continually, until he had an attack, after which he spent weeks in the hospital.

Then Nazis came to the hospital and said, "Kasper, why don't you finish it all yourself? Why do you wait so long? Why do you compel us to dispatch the matter ourselves?", an invitation to commit suicide and a warning.

This had lasted for three-quarters of a year when I escaped. Kasper's face twitched nervously; it was lined with deep wrinkles. He was at least ten years older than when he arrived. We all agreed that if this lasted much longer, Willi Kasper would not leave Sonnenburg alive.

Delegations of Foreign Journalists Deceived

Several times a month delegations of foreign journalists arrived. Many of these are delegated by governments which are friendly towards the rule of Hitler and are supplied with government funds. But honest foreign delegations also came. They were accompanied, however, by employees of the Ministry of the Interior and the camp warden. These delegations were flagrantly hoodwinked.

Often the journalists were told the truth about the military drill. But they knew nothing of the tortures that take place in the cellar of the east and west wings. One delegation arrived without being announced. Even they did not see the truth, since the name-cards on the cells had been turned blank side out, giving the impression that the cells were unoccupied. Some of the prisoners in the cellar heard

Bruening say to the visitors, "In these cells, there are no prisoners, as you can see by the name-plates."

Each time a delegation of journalists is announced, all the men in the torture-chambers are transferred to the upper floors. This practice is best shown by an account of the visit of the French journalist, Jules Sauerwein, of *Paris-Soir*.

Before his arrival, numerous instructions were given. All the rooms were thoroughly cleaned. The escort from the Ministry introduced Sauerwein to Bruening and then accompanied him from the small entrance to the camp to the small gate between the west wing and the prisoners' quarters into the west court. He saw several of the men who were working in the court and many from the east wing. One of the Nazis in civil clothing, photographed Sauerwein with Bruening and the representatives of the Ministry. I remember in particular that Sauerwein has very grey hair.

During the inspection Bruening said to his aide Knochel, "I only hope this fellow doesn't look at section two of the west wing. . . . the prisoners from the cellar are there. . . ."

A few days before, a large number of prisoners had been terribly beaten in the torture-chambers of the west wing. I am sure that Sauerwein did not see the west wing, and when he inspected the cellar, there was no one there.

While the men from the Ministry were talking excitedly with Sauerwein near the west wing, singing was suddenly heard from the east court. The Nazi in command there had probably not been informed of the visit of the journalist and was going through the ordinary routine of marching and singing. The song was "Oh Strassburg", a call of revenge composed by the Nazis.

Bruening turned pale, motioned to one of his assistants who ran to the east court. Then the song "Wandering is a Miller's Delight" was substituted, and Jules Sauerwein probably did not notice what had happened around him.

Siegmund and Bruening had prepared several of the more complaisant prisoners for questioning by the journalists. These individuals were carefully trained to go into ecstasies over the good treatment they received in the camp.

The delegations never learned about the "medical treatment" in the hospital. They were never told that the government of Hitler spends only from 35 to 36 pfennings (about 7 cents) per prisoner per day for all purposes in the camp.

During interviews with the prominent prisoners of the camp such as von Ossietzki, Willi Kasper, Walter Stoecker, etc., the Nazis kept a most careful lookout. Had they made the slightest criticism of the camp, their bones would have been broken the next day. Naturally all interviews took place in the presence of the Nazis.

I am prepared for an open discussion with all the journalists, writers and jurists who visited Sonnenburg to reconstruct any part of their inspections and to tell them exactly when and where their visits took place and exactly how they were deceived and lied to by the Nazis, under the guidance of the Home Office. Such interviews can be arranged through the International Red Aid (I.L.D.) in Paris.

The Legal Position of the Prisoners

There exists in Germany no law or legal norm concerning the internment, the length of imprisonment or the general treatment for political prisoners. By a special order of Bruening, political prisoners may not even complain. The political prisoners are hostages in the hands of the Nazis.

The cultural situation of the prisoners is of the worst kind. They are continually obliged to sing chauvinistic war songs. They have no newspapers, no libraries, no books, not even scientific ones. The water is undrinkable. They have

less privileges than a common criminal, who is allowed to see his family; who is allowed to receive food and clothes from them.

At Sonnenburg the political prisoners are allowed to write a one-page letter to their families only once every fortnight. At Brandenburg they can write only once a month. Everyone in Germany is well acquainted with the horrors of the concentration camps, and we can imagine the agonies of these helpless wives and parents who do not know from month to month if their husbands and sons are still alive.

Ten Thousand Political Prisoners Threatened with Sterilization

A short time ago the National Socialist minister, Dr. Dietrich, visited the most terrible of the concentration camps of Germany, Dachau. Hans Beimler, who escaped from this hell, calls it the "ante-room of death". After his visit Mr. Dietrich claimed that at least 80 per cent of the two thousand prisoners are bastards from a racial point of view and he proposed to sterilize 1,600 of them. That means the same fate for thousands of political prisoners all over Germany. Dietrich is reported to have made this cynical comment, "We don't want most of these political prisoners to die, but we want their race to die out."

When one thinks of the thousands of assassinations perpetrated by the Nazis against helpless prisoners, one can easily imagine that they will carry out this suggestion. It is the duty of every civilized human being to protest against this display of barbarism.

Seventy Prisoners at Sonnenburg Threatened With Death

We know definitely that the lives of seventy prisoners in Sonnenburg are in danger. One of the wardens warned

the political prisoners: "Take care of yourself. There is to be another big provocation soon . . ."

Hammel and Gurske said that this time something "big" would have to be organized. "And what if fifty or seventy Communists are shot down?"

This information should be a challenge to all those who have a spark of humanity in their hearts. When we think what workers, pacifists, intellectuals, have suffered, when we think of their tortures, when we think that all these men are at the mercy of the homosexual brutes and of the drug-fiend Goering, we cannot but rise in protest.

Nor must we think that the spirit of our comrades is broken, that they have given up the struggle. In August, 1933, when the band played Nazi songs in the courtyard, only twenty or thirty of the prisoners raised their arms in the fascist salute. The others stood like a wall of stone, another proof of the failure of the Nazis "to win over the prisoners by the heart and mind".

Everyone Must Do His Part Before It Is Too Late

Sonnenburg is lost in a sort of wilderness forty miles from the Polish frontier, far from the millions of eyes and ears of the great cities of the world. But the call of those tortured within its walls reaches the ears of all men,—the cry of men who gave their liberty to fight fascism so that you may have liberty, who gave their lives that you may live.

Workers, farmers, professionals, scholars, in city and in village, in office and in factory, you cannot remain deaf to this appeal. There is a dark night hanging over Germany. Help bring the light there. Help us heal the wounds inflicted on us by the savagery of the regime of Hitler.

Give the political prisoners in Germany moral and financial encouragement.

HELP US BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

Ammunition in the Fight to
FREE THAELMANN
 and other victims of the fascist
 murder-hounds in Germany

-
- DO YOU KNOW THAELMANN?—*by Henri Barbusse* 3c
- DIMITROFF ACCUSES!—*Dimitroff's Speech in the Reichstag Trial* 3c
- WHO BURNED THE REICHSTAG? 3c
- THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM IN GERMANY 1c
- THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY LIVES AND FIGHTS—*The Banned Literature Distributed under the Fascist Hitler Terror* 5c
- FOUR WEEKS IN THE HANDS OF HITLER'S HELL-HOUNDS—*by Hans Beimler* 10c
- MURDER IN CAMP HOHENSTEIN—*by Johannes Becher and Others* 25c
- THE SONNENBURG TORTURE CAMP—*by an Escaped Prisoner* 5c
- WOMEN UNDER HITLER FASCISM—*Prepared by the Commission Investigating Fascist Activities* 3c

RE

•
 Order from

Workers Library Publishers

P. O. BOX 148, STA. D

NEW YORK CITY